Action has already been initiated for further expansion of the pipeline capacity to match the increase in production during the Eighth Plan period.

Oil production in the country

1128. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 17th January, 1988 captioned "7th Plan and may see oil crisis" and stating that the growth rate of oil production would not be able to meet the annual growth of consumption of about 7 per cent and thereby Government would be forced to go in for the import of oil which is a heavy drain on the country's foreign exchange reserves;

(b) if so, what are the steps taken by Government to increase oil production in the country keeping in view the requirements thereof; and

(c) whether Government are allocating more funds for the oil exploration work since there is a large oil potential in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

Production of crude oil in the country during 7th plan will be less than the consumption. The gap between the production and consumption will continue to be met by suitable imports.

(b) Besides efforts towards demand management and conservation of petroleum products, following steps have been taken to increase crude production:—

(i) Intensification of exploration/ which may eventually lead to enhanced production,

(ii) Intensification of work-over operations,

(iii) Use of enhanced oil recovery techniques, and

(iv) Induction of advanced technology.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Reliance Industries

1129. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report in the 'Indian Express' dated December 18, 1987 captioned 'Panel owes an explanation', stating that according to report of the officers of the Ministries of Industry and Finance, submitted after a site inspection 12 machines had been imported by M/s. Reliance Industries instead of 8;

(b) if so, what are the details of the machines imported, the cost per machine and the total cost involved;

(c) how and when the facts were first brought home to Government;

(d) how the payment of the four extra machines was made; and

(e) what action has since been taken against the said firm in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (e) Necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.